

D-21188

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowability of claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17. Claims 4, 10 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice due to the incorporation of the subject matter thereof into claims 1, 6 and 12 respectively. Claims 1, 6 and 12 have been amended to more particularly define Applicants' claimed invention. Support for the amendment of claims 1, 6 and 12 can be found in original claims 4, 10 and 16 and at paragraph [0015] of Applicants' specification. Claims 5, 11 and 17 have been amended to make them dependent upon a non-canceled claim and to more particularly define Applicants' claimed invention. Claim 5 has also been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice in favor of claim 6.

The rejection of claims 1, 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mundt (US 5,463,526) is respectfully traversed.

In view of the amendment of independent claims 1 and 6 to incorporate the subject matter of non-rejected claims 4 and 10 respectively, this rejection is deemed improper and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Weldon et al. (US 6,108,189) is respectfully traversed.

In view of the amendment of independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of non-rejected claim 4, this rejection is deemed improper and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 2, 3, 6-9 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weldon et al. (US 6,108,189) is respectfully traversed.

In view of the amendment of independent claims 1, 6 and 12 to incorporate the subject matter of non-rejected claims 4, 10 and 16 respectively, this rejection is deemed improper and should be withdrawn.

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It is respectfully submitted that the rejections of record are improper and that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all claims are courteously solicited.

A response to the Office Action mailed July 18, 2003 was due October 18, 2003. Accordingly, submitted herewith is a petition for an extension of time for three (3) months. Please charge fees/surcharge which may be required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-2440.

Respectfully submitted,



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January 12, 2004  
Attorney Ref.: D-21188